

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20761C1

The purpose of this bill is to modify Title 56, Public Assistance and Welfare, Chapter 2, Public Assistance Law, Section 27D, Federal Food Stamps Unauthorized Use, to reduce the felony threshold for trafficking food stamps so that it matches the Federal threshold.

The current statute makes it a felony to traffic food stamps for more than \$150 and a misdemeanor below that amount. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for Health and Human Services requested that Idaho establish the threshold at \$100 so that it matches the Federal Rules

By doing this it will make cooperative investigations easier and more likely between the State food stamp program integrity and the Federal food stamp program.

This will be a benefit for the State because the OIG has not had the resources to conduct independent investigations in Idaho. This will allow the State's program integrity investigators to assist with these cases in order to charge individuals who traffic food stamps under Idaho Law and Federal Rules simultaneously.

FISCAL NOTE

Modifying Title 56, Public Assistance and Welfare, Chapter 2, Public Assistance Law, Section 27D, Federal Food Stamps Unauthorized Use would not have a measurable financial impact. The un-measurable impacts could include the additional cost of prosecuting food stamp traffickers but may also have the effect of reducing trafficking as a deterrent and paving the way for settling trafficking claims through restitution and civil monetary penalties.

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